



Forest Plan Revision Wilderness Assessment

Updated 6/25/2017



Wilderness Evaluation Process

Inventory

COMPLETED

- Identify areas that MAY have wilderness characteristics:
- ⇒ Area must not have substantially noticeable improvements .
 - ⇒ Area must be greater than 5,000 acres, or less than 5,00 but contiguous or existing wilderness, primitive areas, administratively recommended wilderness, etc.

Evaluation

NEXT STEP

The primary function of the evaluation step is to evaluate, pursuant to criteria set forth in the Wilderness Act of 1964, the wilderness characteristics of the lands included in the inventory. All lands included in the inventory must be evaluated.

Analysis

Based on the evaluation and input from public participation opportunities, the Responsible Official shall identify which specific areas, or portions thereof, from the evaluation to carry forward as recommended wilderness in one or more alternatives in the plan EIS.

Recommendation

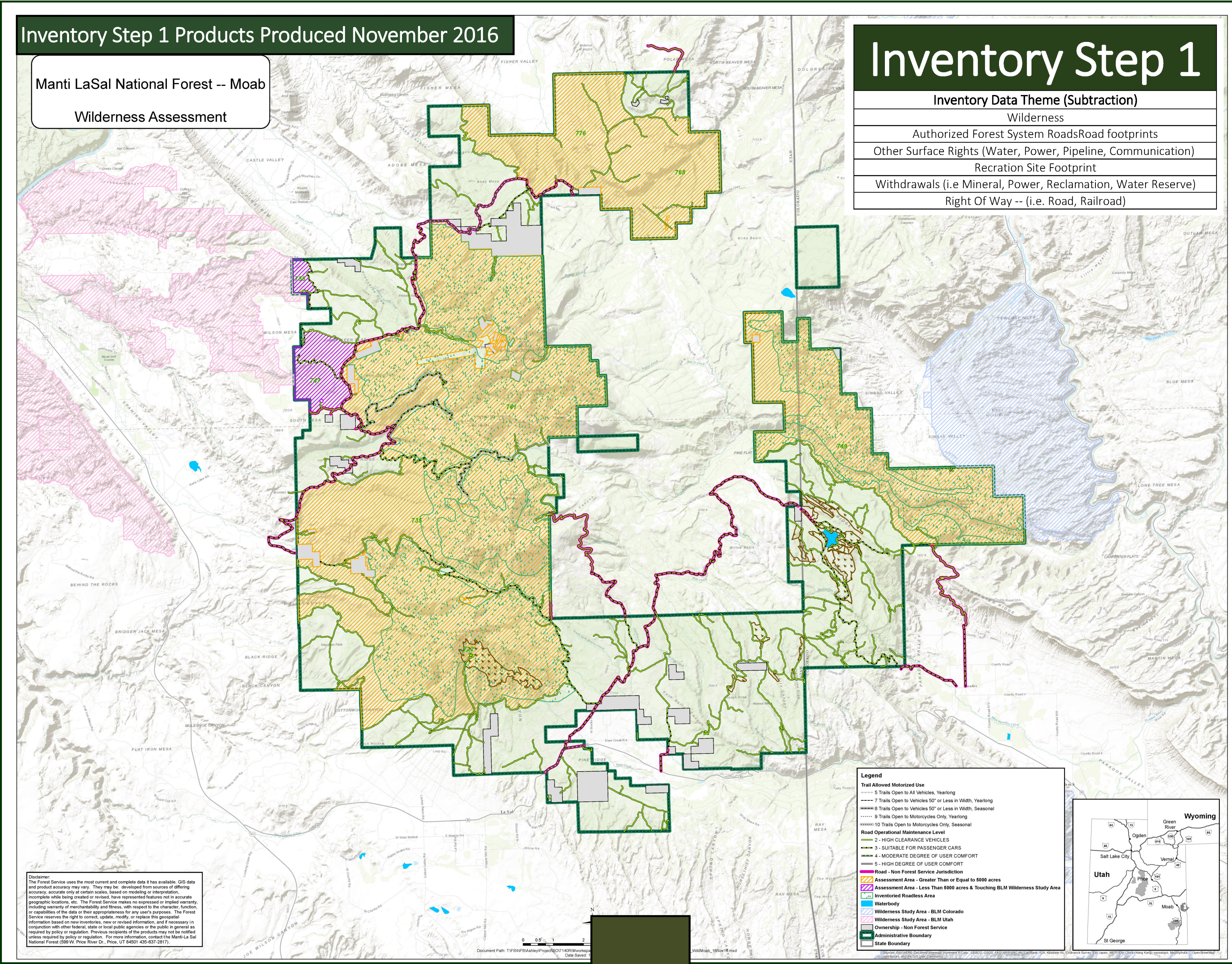
The Responsible Official shall document a decision on whether to recommend specific areas for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System or as a Wilderness Study Area east of the hundredth meridian, based on the analysis disclosed in the applicable NEPA document and input received during public participation opportunities (sec. 70.61). This decision must be included in the final decision document for the plan.

Where are we now?

As of June 21st 2017, **the Manti – La Sal has concluded the inventory phase of the wilderness process.** Through the inventory, we have identified **54** inventory units. **Eight (8)** of which are less than 5,000 acres, but adjacent to other wilderness designations, or adjacent to lands with wilderness characteristics. The next step will be the evaluation phase, where each inventory unit will be evaluated for wilderness characteristics (See FSH 1909.12 Chapter 70, Section 72.1).

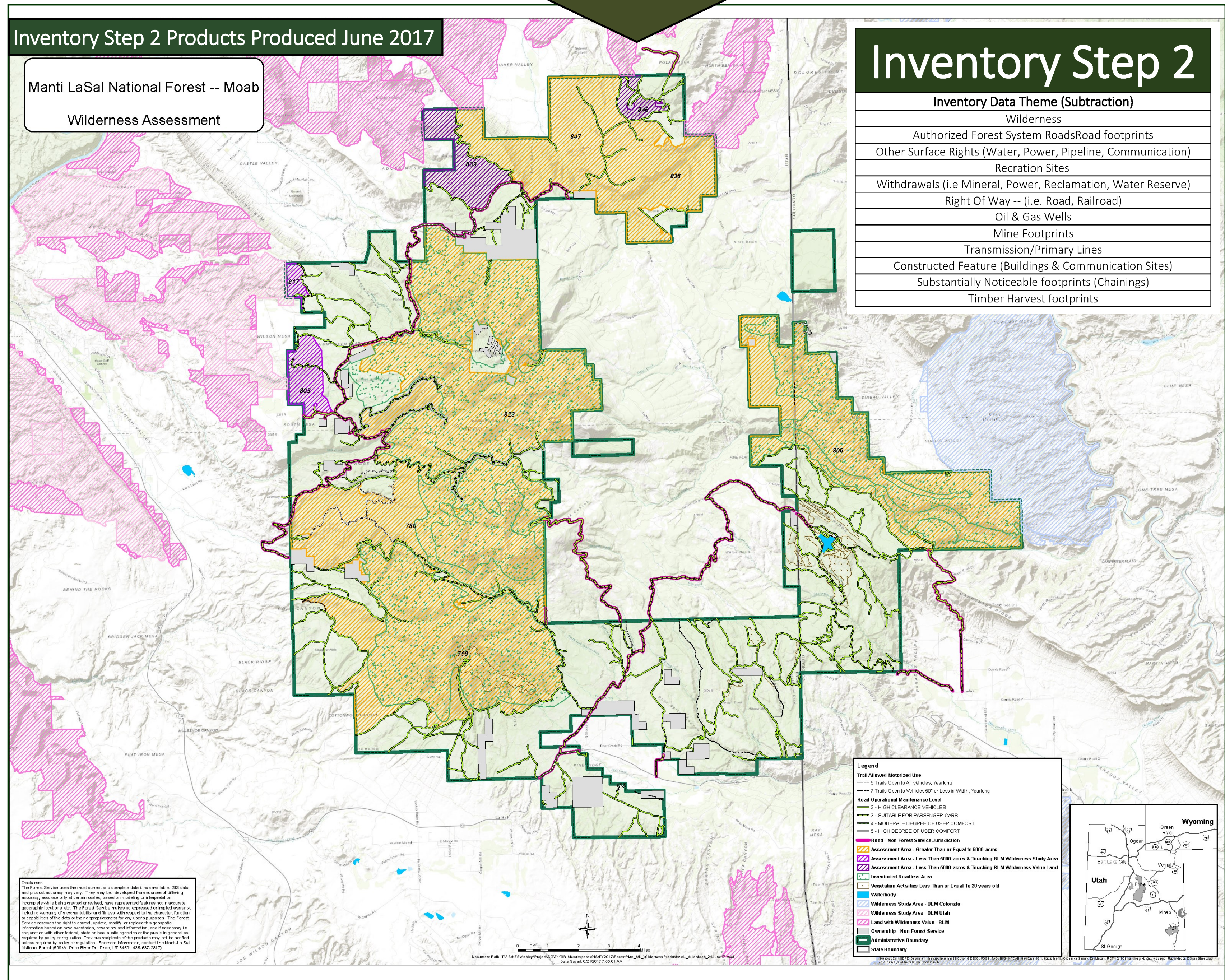
As of June 21st 2017

Ranger District	Inv Poly Greater Than 5k Acres	Inv Poly Adjacent to WSA, LWC or Natural Area
Price, Ferron, Sanpete	30	2
Moab	6	4
Monticello	10	2



Internal Review

Public Input



Public Involvement

Public Involvement to Date

Public comments were received in the Fall of 2016 and Spring of 2017 regarding the wilderness Inventory maps via our online Collaborative Mapping Tool; additional comments were submitted via email, postal mail and an online commenting form. This Spring, we received 115 comments which were responded to and influenced the inventory maps. Public involvement will continue to play a role in the wilderness process during the rest of the phases of the wilderness assessment.

NEXT STEPS

Wilderness Evaluation Phase

The next step in the wilderness process is the evaluation phase. The Interdisciplinary Team will evaluate areas, which must include all lands identified in the inventory (sec. 71 of chapter 70), to determine potential suitability for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Criteria used is identified in the Wilderness Act of 1964, section 2(c), as follows:

- 1) Evaluate the degree to which the area generally appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprints of man's work substantially unnoticeable (apparent naturalness). Areas that have been highly impacted by human development and utilization will no longer qualify.
- 2) Evaluate the degree to which the area has outstanding opportunities for solitude or for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.
- 3) Evaluate how an area less than 5,000 acres is of sufficient size to make its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition practicable.
- 4) Evaluate the degree to which the area may contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.
- 5) Evaluate the degree to which the area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics.

Additional Information

For additional information on the process, and the criteria used during the Wilderness Process, reference FSH 1909.12—LAND MANAGEMENT PLANNING HANDBOOK CHAPTER 70— WILDERNESS.

To view the progress on the Manti-La Sal's wilderness assessment, and find wilderness assessment maps, visit the wilderness assessment sub-page:
<https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/mantilasal/landmanagement/planning/>

For updates on our Plan Revision effort, visit our StoryMap website (<http://bit.do/manti-lasalplanrevision>) or Planning page (<http://bit.do/mlsnplanningpage>). You can also contact the Plan Revision Team with questions at mlnfpplanrevision@fs.fed.us; by phone at 435-636-3508; or via postal mail at 599 West Price River Drive, Price, Utah 84501.